

National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 26 February 2003



Daily Overview

- Reuters reports the Secretary of Energy has said the United States would act quickly to release oil from strategic reserves if needed to offset any supply disruptions in the event of war with Iraq. (See item_1)
- The Associated Press reports New Zealand's anti-terror police have issued a public warning about a security threat to the America's Cup, after letters containing cyanide crystals and white powder were seized by postal workers. (See item 10)
- The Department of Transportation has announced that the U.S. Coast Guard has been transferred to the Department of Homeland Security, formally recognizing the change of civilian leadership over a military organization. (See item 20)
- The New York Times reports the United States military is starting an ambitious assault on Iraq using a growing arsenal of electronic and psychological weapons on the information battlefield. (See item 23)

NIPC Update Fast Jump

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical; Defense Industrial Base

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health

Federal and State: Government; Emergency Services

IT and Cyber: Information and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard

Other: General; NIPC Web Information

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: High, <u>Cyber</u>: High
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – http://esisac.com]

1. February 25, Reuters — Oil falls as U.S. says it may release reserves. Volatile oil prices pulled back from 2-year peaks on Tuesday after the United States said it would act quickly to release oil from strategic reserves if needed to offset any supply disruptions in the event of war with Iraq. The remarks by Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham prompted a

retreat from large gains triggered by huge demand for heating oil in the United States, where cold weather and low inventories have pumped fuel prices to record highs. **Abraham said the U.S. was ready to act quickly to release emergency oil reserves if necessary to offset any disruption to Middle East supplies — which account for 40 percent of the world's oil exports — in the event of war with Iraq.** He said Washington could release supplies on its own, but that any decision would be made in consultation with Washington's partners in the International Energy Agency, the Paris—based energy watchdog for industrialized countries. Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/030225/markets oil 1.html

2. February 25, Platts Global Energy News — New York grid sees summer covered, but urges building. The New York Independent System Operator on Tuesday said the state has adequate capacity for the summer, but that supplies will be tight. Its 2003 summer forecast shows that the state needs to add more generating capacity "on an expedited basis" because demand continues to grow, it said. "Unless significant generating capacity is added to the system – and soon – demand is going to overwhelm supply and reliability will be at risk," said NYISO president William Museler. Currently, the state has only 36,527 MW of supply, but 1,231 MW of new plants are due on—line during the summer. In addition, more resources will come from demand—response programs. NYISO sees a tight summer for New York City and Long Island, which are load pockets, largely cut off from the state by transmission constraints, and requiring local resources.

Source: http://www.platts.com/stories/home1.html

- 3. February 24, Platts Global Energy News Open issues prevent FEMA's approval of Indian Point emergency plan. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said it cannot give "reasonable assurance" of Indian Point's emergency response plans unless the state of New York provides by May 2 an updated list of actions that the state and counties surrounding the plant plan to take in response to the plant's September 2002 emergency exercise. FEMA said without assurances from the state, it could not give its blessing that the plans would protect public safety.
 - Source: http://www.platts.com/stories/nuclear1.html
- 4. February 24, Journal of Alaska Business and Commerce Power demand surges in Interior. To meet increasing demand for electric power in Interior Alaska, Golden Valley Electric Association of Fairbanks (GVEA) is moving ahead with plans for a \$50 million expansion of its generating plant at North Pole, near the Interior city. "With the new missile defense facilities near Delta, a good possibility that the large Pogo gold mine will be built and that oil—fueled pump stations on the trans—Alaska Pipeline System will convert to electricity, we have to plan for expansion," said Steve Haagenson, president of GVEA, the electric utility for the Interior. GVEA awarded a contract to NANA/Colt Engineering LLC to do preliminary engineering for two turbines and a steam generating unit to be built at the utility's North Pole generating station, which now has two oil—fired turbine generators with 120 Megawatts of capacity. GVEA needs new generating capacity online by 2005, Haagenson said. While there are no cost estimates for the project, an industry rule—ofthumb is that turbine generation equipment costs about \$1,000 per installed 1,000 Kilowatts, according to Kate Lamal, GVEA vice president for power supply. That could put the total cost for the new plant at \$50 million to \$60 million, she said.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw article.cfm?id =3667798

- 5. February 24, News Release Northeast utilities boosts electricity flow with advanced transmission reliability system. Northeast utilities boosts electricity flow into chronically congested section of Power Grid with advanced transmission reliability system. Connecticut Light & Power Company has bought a new, advanced transmission reliability system to increase the reliability and flow of electricity to the chronically congested power grid in southwest Connecticut. The transmission reliability system purchased by CL&P consists of three of AMSC's D-VAR(TM) units and related GE equipment to actively manage voltage levels in lines bringing power into the area. By constantly monitoring and responding to variations in voltage, the system will immediately allow an additional 100 megawatts of power to flow through existing transmission lines into the overtaxed portion of CL&P's grid in southwest Connecticut. Electric reliability in the southwest section of the state 52 cities and towns encompassing one quarter of the state has been highlighted by federal and regional authorities as a serious concern. The area's power demand has increased significantly in recent years, while plans to establish new transmission or generation resources continue to move through the approval process.
 - Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw article.cfm?id = 3667824
- 6. February 24, Greenwire Industry looks to gain new incentives under new energy bill. A key incentive sought by advocates of renewable energy makes another appearance in Congress this week as Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) aims to extend the 1.8 cents-per-kilowatt-hour production tax credit (PTC) to a broad range of renewable energy sources. The "Renewable Energy Incentives Act" aims to extend the PTC to geothermal, incremental geothermal, solar, open-loop biomass, incremental hydropower, landfill gas, and animal waste or other renewable energy resources. The bill also makes the PTC permanent in hopes of providing more business stability in the industry and promote growth, according to Reid's office. If passed, the credit would apply only to facilities built after the bill's approval. It remains unclear whether Reid's bill will be incorporated into the comprehensive energy bill expected later this year or come as part of a possible economic stimulus bill. The overall Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy budget has a \$37 million increase, but the bulk of the funds are earmarked to launch President Bush's \$15 million climate change technology initiative and to support hydrogen fuel cell development. Hydrogen is slated to receive \$87 million, a \$48 million or 120-percent increase.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_natio_nal.htm?SMDOCID=eenews_2003_02_24_eng-eenews_greenwire_eng-e_enews_greenwire_124544_5813369265224930036a>

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Chemical Sector

7. February 25, Mobile Register (Alabama) — Bush may close access to info on chemical plants. The Bush administration has drafted legislation to clamp down on the public's ability to learn about risks from individual chemical plants, according to documents recently obtained by a Washington, D.C., watchdog group. The proposed restrictions would sharply curtail the availability of the worst—case accident scenarios that many large plants must file with the federal government. Those reports are currently public, although the average citizen can

view them only in certain locations and must present identification to do so. In Mobile County, home to a big chunk of Alabama's chemical industry, catastrophic accidents at some well–known employers could imperil hundreds of thousands of people, these reports show. Under a proposed anti–terrorism bill — marked "confidential — not for distribution"— the U.S. Department of Justice would bar most people from seeing those scenarios in a form that would identify the plant or its location. "That means that you can't find out if a local chemical company can release a toxic cloud that can hurt or kill you," said Paul Orum, director of the Working Group on Community Right—to—Know, a Washington, D.C., organization opposed to the measure. The 86–page draft, officially entitled the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003, is dated Jan. 9. It was made public earlier this month by the nonpartisan Center for Public Integrity in Washington, which apparently obtained its version from a government employee.

Source: http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/xml/story.s sf/html standard.xsl?/base/news/104616844731050.xml

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. February 25, Washington Post — Firms rejecting terror coverage. Most U.S. businesses are electing not to buy terrorism insurance because they do not feel at risk of an attack or because they simply do not want to pay for the coverage, according to some of the nation's largest insurance providers. Insurance companies are required to provide terrorism insurance to their commercial policyholders under a law President Bush signed in November. Insurance carriers had until Monday to inform their policyholders how much they would have to pay for the coverage. Under the law, policyholders have 30 days after receiving terms of the terrorism coverage to accept or reject it. So far, the majority of commercial policyholders have decided against the coverage, insurers and analysts said. Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., one of the largest U.S. insurance companies, said 15 percent of its biggest commercial policyholders — those seeking to insure at least \$100 million in assets — have opted to buy terrorism coverage. Gail Norstrom, managing director of Aon Risk Services, a unit of Aon Corp., another large U.S. insurer, said the majority of its policyholders also have opted not to buy terrorism coverage. "You're seeing some isolated take—up, but I think most people just don't feel exposed to foreign terrorism," Norstrom said.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A62146-2003Feb 24.html

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Transportation Sector

Nothing to report.

Postal and Shipping Sector

9. February 25, Pasadena Citizen — Port authorizes emergency security purchases. Responding to increasing terrorism concerns, Port of Houston Authority commissioners on Tuesday authorized emergency security expenditures in excess of \$25,000 without **prior approval.** With the action in place, Port of Houston Authority Executive Director Tom Kornegay may designate security—related purchases without prior commissioner approval. Commissioners must be notified within 48 hours of the purchase. It also gives Kornegay the authority to "do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary" to secure the premises in a timely manner. The measure permits funds to be appropriated when necessary to preserve public health, protect property from potential damage, to relieve the necessity of citizens during "public calamity," or when necessary under state or federal directives from the U.S. Office of Homeland Security, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Transportation Security Agency or other agencies responsible for homeland security. Urgent situations, when the Port Authority receives no prior notice before implementation is required and the measures are needed to immediately comply with federal security requirements and to protect residents and property, are likely to be the bulk of future emergency purchases.

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=7168413AG=461fi=6

10. February 25, Associated Press — Terror warning at America's Cup. New Zealand's Anti-terror police issued a public warning about a security threat to the America's Cup Tuesday after letters containing cyanide crystals and white powder were seized by postal workers. Assistant commissioner Jon White, head of New Zealand's counterterror squad, told reporters that the identical letters were addressed to the U.S. Embassy and the British and Australian High Commissions in Wellington, the capital. "A small quantity of cyanide (was) in one of the letters," White said. He said the cyanide can act quickly if swallowed and can be absorbed through the skin. White declined to release details of the threats in the letters, but said they related to "actions" that could occur if Iraq was attacked, and during the sailing of the final races of the America's Cup in Auckland.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/sports/sailing/2003-02-25-terror-war ning x.htm

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Agriculture Sector

11. February 25, Houston Chronicle — U.S. buying farms to block disease. Tucked away in the nearly \$400 billion spending bill President Bush signed last week was \$15 million to finish a buyout of 10 Texas dairy farmers in El Paso and Hudspeth counties. The money will be added to \$44 million the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) already has set aside to end dairy farming around El Paso, a move officials believe is a necessary step in eliminating the scourge of bovine tuberculosis in this country. The farmers can use the money to make a new life, even in the dairy business, just as long as they don't do it in the El Paso area, where bovine TB has been a chronic problem. The drastic measure is part of an

overall strategy to eliminate bovine TB, a disease that can infect humans. "We're getting close to eradication," said Dr. John Clifford, associate deputy administrator of veterinary services for the USDA's animal and plant health inspection service. A USDA study estimated bovine TB will cost U.S. farmers as much as \$2.8 billion over the next 10 years in potential lost earnings if it is not eradicated. Many foreign markets are closed to U.S. cattle because the disease remains a problem in pockets here.

Source: http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/story.hts/business/1793427

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Food Sector

12. February 24, Scripps Howard News Service — E. coli still deadly, 20 years after discovery. Twenty years ago, the discovery of a rare strain of the common bacteria E. coli that made some people violently ill caused few ripples outside scientific circles. But food scientists say no other food pathogen in recent history has turned out to be as costly, controversial, or difficult to combat as the strain of E. coli 0157:H7, first identified as a disease—causing pathogen in a New England Journal of Medicine article in 1983. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the pathogen is linked to 20,000 cases of infection this year, and from 250 and 500 deaths from kidney disease. In just the last decade, Steve Kay, editor of Cattle Buyers Weekly, estimates the 10 largest beef processing companies have spent \$400 million on new equipment and added \$250 million to their operating costs to fight E. coli. The federal government in 1996 revamped meat inspection regulations to try and deal with it, and Elsa Murano, Agriculture undersecretary for food safety, has declared war on it. Source: http://www.knoxstudio.com/shns/story.cfm?pk=ECOLI-02-24-03cat=WW

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Water Sector

13. February 25, Record Searchlight — Water supply threatened. Hundreds of Tehama, CA residents are drinking contaminated water while local officials search for a solution that will likely cost millions of dollars. "Basically, people are drinking untreated waste from their septic tanks. It's not a great situation," said Mey Wong, a Redding engineer with the state Regional Water Quality Control Board. Groundwater polluted with nitrate, which poses a particular threat to infants, has infiltrated wells that pump tap water to almost 1,500 Red Bluff households and businesses. In a recent meeting, Wong told county supervisors and the Red Bluff City Council to develop an alternative sewage system for the Antelope neighborhood or the water board will prohibit septic tank usage in contaminated areas and forbid installation of more tanks. "At this point, we're almost ready to say, 'You can't build here at all,' " she said.

Source: http://www.redding.com/top_stories/local/20030225toplo042.sh.tml

14. February 24, Los Angeles Daily News — Region confronts Colorado water loss. Southern California will have to turn to desalination, treatment of polluted groundwater, and water recycling to wean itself off Colorado River water, analysts said Thursday. Coupled with

increasingly strict standards on water quality and storm—water runoff, the reduction in a key source of imported water means major changes in the way Southern Californians get and protect their supply, industry insiders predicted at a Valley Industry and Commerce Association forum. "Unless we develop local sources and increase them, we'll run out of water," said Donald R. Kendall, general manager of the Calleguas Municipal Water District, which provides water to most Ventura County communities.

Source: http://www.dailynews.com/Stories/0,1413,200%257E20954%257E11 93734,00.html?search=filter

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Public Health Sector

15. February 25, Washington Post — Lack of reporting thwarts efforts to halt deadly infections. Every year, according to federal health officials, nearly 2 million Americans leave hospitals with infections they acquired there, and 90,000 die as a result. Despite this number only 10 reports of life—threatening hospital—acquired infections have been received since 1996, when the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) began compiling a voluntary database. In an effort to boost the number of reports by hospitals, and to reduce the number of lethal infections among patients, the commission has convened an expert panel to recommend ways to strengthen infection control procedures. Some of these recommendations may lead to tougher standards that inspectors will consider during visits by the JCAHO, which is funded by the 17,000 hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions it accredits. The 20—member panel represents the third such effort undertaken by JCAHO in the past decade, according to vice president of standards Robert Wise, who is spearheading the effort.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A50950-2003Feb 22.html

16. February 24, National Journal — New HHS center stands ready to track bioterror attacks. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson has wasted no time in constructing a state—of—the—art command center to handle any bioterrorism or public health emergency that might arise. In less than 60 days' time, Thompson finished the job, with the ribbon—cutting on the \$3.5 million center occurring in December. The center's purpose is to provide timely, accurate information and intelligence to the secretary so that he can make quick, well—informed decisions about a public health situation anywhere in the country. Special equipment can map and display the progression of illness outbreaks. It's also important for Thompson to be able to quickly locate his resources, including personnel. The command center keeps tabs on the 50 tons of medical supplies stashed in secret places throughout the country, and on 8,000 medical responders who are ready to sprint to the site of an emergency. Source: http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/022403nj1.htm

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Government Sector

17.

February 25, Associated Press — Governor says Ridge open to homeland base in Hawaii. Gov. Linda Lingle said on Monday that Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is "very open" to establishing some of his operations in Hawaii, including creation of a homeland security headquarters in Honolulu for the U.S. Pacific territories. During the meeting with Ridge, Lingle said, they discussed the uniqueness of Hawaii and homeland security, she told the Associated Press in a telephone interview. They also discussed "locating some of the assets in Hawaii," she said, perhaps personnel and research. "He was very open," she said. Ridge toured O'ahu when he was in Honolulu for a Republican Party fund—raiser in June 2000, said Lingle, who added that the former Pennsylvania governor was very familiar with the island and aware of the importance of Hawaii's ports and harbors.

Source: http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2003/Feb/25/ln/ln0 6a.html

- 18. February 25, New York Times Jury rules out death penalty for failed spy. A federal worker who was convicted last week of trying to sell secrets to Iraq and China will not face the death penalty, a jury decided on Monday. The former Air Force master sergeant, Brian P. Regan, who worked for the intelligence agency that operates American spy satellites, was found guilty last week of attempted espionage and collecting secret information. Paul McNulty, the United States attorney for the eastern district of Virginia, said "justice has been well served" by today's outcome. "Mr. Regan is now a convicted spy," McNulty said. "For this betrayal of country, he will pay a heavy price." Regan, who is 40 and the father of four, could receive life imprisonment, officials said. He is to be sentenced by a judge on May 9. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/25/national/25SPY.html
- 19. February 25, New York Times U.S. crackdown sets off unusual rush to Canada. Prompted by rumors of dragnets and by new federal deadlines that require male foreign visitors, principally those from Muslim and Arab countries, to register with the government, families that lived illegally but undisturbed in the United States for years are now rushing to Canada. They get across the border only to be bounced back into the hands and jails of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Asylum applications to Canada have increased sharply since the beginning of the year, according to aid workers and officials on both sides of the border. Most of the applicants are Pakistanis, who are required to register with the American immigration service by March 21. Other nationality groups also face various registration deadlines, but have not noticeably flooded the border. Many of the Pakistani asylum seekers said they decided to flee to Canada because they knew that Canada was already home to a large and growing population of Pakistani immigrants, especially in Montreal and Toronto. Even before the latest upswing this month and last month, Pakistanis accounted for the largest number of asylum applications to Canada, according to Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/25/national/25DETA.html

20. February 25, Department of Transportation — Secretaries Mineta, Ridge 'change watch' of Coast Guard. On Tuesday at a historic 'Change of Watch' ceremony at the Washington, D.C. Stadium—Armory, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta transferred leadership of the U.S. Coast Guard to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, formally recognizing the change in civilian leadership over a military organization. The 'Change of Watch' ceremony is similar to a Change of Command, a time—honored military tradition that formally restates to the officers and crew the continuity of the authority of command.

Like the Change of Command, this Change of Watch represents a transfer of oversight of the Coast Guard from Secretary Mineta to Secretary Ridge. "The Coast Guard's unique military and maritime mission will be a cornerstone of the Department of Homeland Security. Their fundamental responsibilities—preparedness, protection, response and recovery—cut across all facets of the Department's mission," said Secretary Ridge. "Secretary Mineta's stewardship personifies the very spirit and attitude of the men and women of the Coast Guard." Source: http://www.dot.gov/affairs/uscg0103.htm

21. February 24, Government Executive — Ridge cites security progress, urges states to share burden. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge on Monday said the nation is making progress in its effort to bolster security but called on states to help shoulder the cost burden. Ridge said that while his department will do what it can to aid states and localities, the cost of security is a shared burden. "I do think on some of these [issues] there are public-safety responsibilities to share costs," he said. However, Ridge pledged to review some federal requirements mandating that states provide matching grants for safety equipment and other needs. Some officials expressed concern that those mandates are preventing state lawmakers from appropriating money for emergency-response needs due to dramatic budget deficits.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/022403td1.htm

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Emergency Services Sector

22. February 25, New York Post — 'Bio' vans join N.Y.'s terror fight. — The state this spring will begin distributing 113 terror—busting vans to law—enforcement agencies, a top state official said on Monday. New York City will receive 17 of the special trailers, which will be equipped with masks, hazardous—material suits, detection devices and sample collection kits for chemical and biological elements. The trailers, which cost \$200,000 each and were recommended by the state's Weapons of Mass Destruction task force, will be paid for through a \$25 million federal grant.

Source: http://www.nypost.com/news/regionalnews/69384.htm

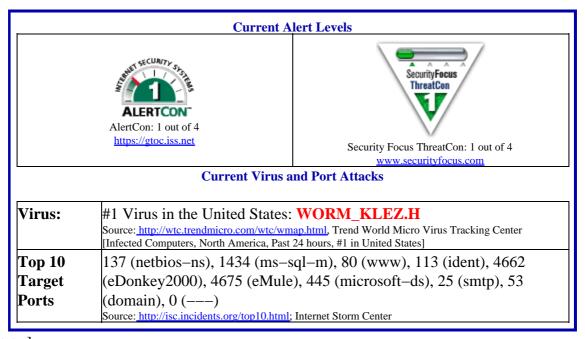
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Information and Telecommunications Sector

23. February 24, New York Times — Firing leaflets and electrons, U.S. wages information war. The United States military is starting an ambitious assault on Iraq using a growing arsenal of electronic and psychological weapons on the information battlefield. Military planners at the United States Central Command expect to rely on many kinds of information warfare – including electronic attacks on power grids, communications systems and computer networks, as well as deception and psychological operations – to break the Iraqi military's will to fight and sway Iraqi public opinion. "The goal of information warfare is to win without ever firing a shot," said James R. Wilkinson, a spokesman for the Central Command in Tampa, FL. "If action does begin, information warfare is used to make the conflict as short

as possible." American cyber–warfare experts recently waged an e–mail assault, directed at Iraq's political, military and economic leadership, urging them to break with Saddam Hussein's government. A wave of calls has gone to the private cellphone numbers of specially selected officials inside Iraq, according to leaders at the Pentagon and in the regional Central Command. Radio transmitters hauled aloft by Air Force Special Operations EC–130E planes are broadcasting directly to the Iraqi public in Arabic with programs that mimic the program styles of local radio stations. If President Bush orders an attack against Iraq, the information offensive will expand to a fierce but invisible war of electrons. Air commanders will rely on a small but essential fleet of surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, including the radar–jamming EC–130H Compass Call and electronic–eavesdropping RC–135 Rivet Joint. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/24/international/middleeast/2 4MILI.html

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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NIPC Products & Contact Information

The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability, and law enforcement investigation and response entity. The NIPC provides timely warnings of international threats, comprehensive analysis and law enforcement investigation and response. The NIPC provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the NIPC web–site (http://www.nipc.gov), one can quickly access any of the following NIPC products:

<u>NIPC Warnings</u> – NIPC Assessements, Advisories, and Alerts: The NIPC produces three levels of infrastructure warnings which are developed and distributed consistent with the FBI's National Threat Warning System. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

NIPC Publications – NIPC Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

NIPC Daily Reports Archive – Access past NIPC Daily Reports

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To report any incidents or to request information from NIPC, contact the NIPC Watch at <u>nipc.watch@fbi.gov</u> or call 202–323–3204.

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